

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1 to 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,934,538. In order to overcome this rejection a terminal disclaimer is concurrently filed.

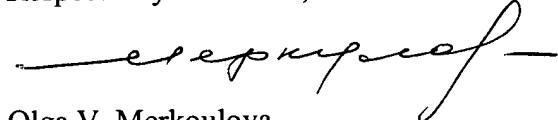
Applicant believes that this response puts the application in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 to 8 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



Olga V. Merkulova  
Reg. No. 48,757

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.  
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340  
Reston, VA 20190  
Tel. (703) 787-9400  
Fax. (703) 787-7557  
Customer No. 30743